

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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TAGS: PLOS,EFIS,EEC,IC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS
WITH ICELAND

REF: REYKJAVIK 1383

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES
FOR ICELAND PROPOSED BY THE EC COMMISSION IN ITS COMMUNICATION
TO THE EC COUNCIL OF SEPTEMBER 23. COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE
COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY'S
EXTERNAL FISHERY POLICY ARE BEING FURNISHED TO REYKJAVIK AND TO ALL
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

BEGIN TEXT: THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF ICELAND DEPENDS TO A
SUBSTANTIAL EXTENT ON ITS FISHING ACTIVITY; FISHING ACCOUNTS
FOR 14 PERCENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, MAKES UP 73 PERCENT
OF ITS EXTERNAL REVENUE AND 54 PERCENT OF ITS TRADE WITH THE COM-
MUNITY. IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES
ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT OF 23 JULY 1972 AND PROTOCOL

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NO. 6 ANNEXED THERETO, IT IS IN THE COMMUNITY'S

GENERAL

INTEREST TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT ACTIVITY

IN ORDER TO INCREASE TRADE AND IN PARTICULAR ITS OWN EXPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. EVEN THOUGH PROSPECTS EVIDENTLY REMAIN MODEST IN THIS SPHERE, SINCE COMMUNITY EXPORTS TO ICELAND REPRESENT ONLY 0.1 TO 0.2 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL EXPORTS, IT IS BY THIS MEANS, IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS INSUFFICIENTLY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, THAT IT CAN CONTRIBUTE IN A PRACTICAL WAY TO THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, AND CAN PROMOTE THE INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF ICELAND, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE AGREEMENT.

IN KEEPING WITH THIS POLICY THE COMMUNITY SHOULD ABOVE ALL SEEK A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD AVOID A SUDDEN ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL SUCH AS WOULD COMPROMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A GRADUAL SOLUTION TO THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY ITS FISHERMEN AS A RESULT OF LOSING THEIR USUAL FISHING GROUNDS.

THE COMMUNITY CAN EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE JOINT EXPLOITATION OF CERTAIN STOCKS (REDFISH, COD, HADDOCK). THE SIZE OF THESE STOCKS DEPENDS ON THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS IN ITS OWN ZONE, IN WATER CONTIGUOUS OR ADJACENT TO ICELANDIC WATERS, TO PROTECT THEM AND BUILD THEM UP AGAIN.

ICELAND MAY ALSO LOOK FOR MEDIUM-TERM ASSURANCE OF BEING ABLE TO FISH CERTAIN SPECIES, IN PARTICULAR HERRINGS AND BLUE WHITING IN THE COMMUNITY ZONE ON A MEDIUM-TERM BASIS WITH A VIEW TO A MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENT; AT PRESENT, ICELAND'S FISHING INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY ZONE REPRESENT 5 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL CATCH.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROACH SHOULD BE ADOPTED:

(I) THE JOINT WORKING OUT OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSERVING STOCKS INHABITING THE COMMUNITY ZONE CONTIGUOUS TO THE ICELANDIC ZONE AND THE DETERMINATION IN CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, OF THE TAC (TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH) OF THE SPECIES INVOLVED ON THE BASIS OF PERTINENT SCIENTIFIC DATA;

(II) THE GRANTING TO THE TWO PARTIES OF RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF THE SPECIES IN

QUESTION UNDER (I) IN DEFINED ZONES OR FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS AND WITHIN QUANTITATIVE LIMITS RELATED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CATCHES RECORDED IN THE PAST DURING A REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD OF TIME AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE TAC FIXED UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET OUT UNDER (I)

(III) THE GRANTING OF FISHING RIGHTS TO THE COMMUNITY FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS IN RESPECT OF SPECIES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED UNDER (I) WITH RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS IN COMMUNITY ZONES FOR PELAGIC SPECIES (HERRINGS, BLUE WHITING...)

(IV)IN ADDITION,AND TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT COVER THE PRESENT FISHING EFFORTS BY COMMUNITY COUNTRIES IN ICELANDIC WATERS,A TRANSITIONAL SOLUTION SHOULD ALSO BE SOUGHT TO BRING ABOUT AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE LEVEL RESULTING FROM THE ARRANGEMENT ENVISAGED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS PHASED OVER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. END TEXT.
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